



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                          |   |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Application of:          | ) | <b><u>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</u></b>         |
|                          | ) | I hereby certify that this correspondence is |
| FRANK E. OETLINGER       | ) | being deposited with the United States       |
|                          | ) | Postal Service as first class mail in an     |
| Serial No.: 10/035,732   | ) | envelope addressed to: Mail Stop-Box         |
|                          | ) | Amendment - No Fee, Commissioner for         |
| Filed: December 26, 2001 | ) | Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA       |
|                          | ) | 22231-1450 on <u>4-21-04</u> .               |
| Examiner: Michelle Lopez | ) |  |
|                          | ) |  |
| Art Unit: 3721           | ) | <u>Christine Kierzek</u>                     |
|                          | ) |  |
| FLUSH MOUNTED PRESSER    | ) | <u>Christine Kierzek</u> <u>4-21-04</u>      |
| ASSEMBLY                 | ) | Signature Date                               |

**DECLARATION OF FRANK E. OETLINGER UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131**

Frank E. Oetlinger declares as follows:

1. I am the inventor of the captioned patent application.
2. I have reviewed the Office Action dated January 30, 2004, in the above-captioned patent application and the reference cited therein, namely, Myers, U.S. Patent No. 6,659,927 (hereinafter the "Meyers et al. '927 patent").
3. I conceived of the Flush Mounted Presser Assembly described and claimed in the above-identified application prior to the effective filing date of April 30, 2001 of the Meyers et al '927 patent.
4. Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of an electronic drawing of a flush mounted presser assembly in accordance with the present invention that was completed prior to April 30, 2001, the effective filing date of the Meyers et al. '927 patent.
5. Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of a cross-sectional view of the electronic drawing showing the flush mounted presser assembly of Exhibit A that was completed prior to April 30, 2001 to the effective filing date of the Meyers et al. '899 Appl.

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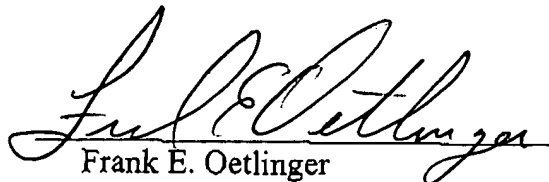
U.S. Serial No.: 10/035,732  
Group Art Unit: 3721  
Inventor: Frank E. Oetlinger  
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6. At all times at least one year prior to the filing date of the above-identified application, Exhibits A and B remained confidential to me, the inventor of the above-identified application.

7. During the time period after the initial conception of the invention, up to and including the date of filing of the above-identified patent application on this invention, I worked diligently on developing the invention with no lapses occurring therebetween.

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code; and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Dated: 4/20/04

  
Frank E. Oetlinger

